

Strategic Development Update



In March 2023 we began a partnership with the Institute for School and Parish Development (ISPD) to build a strategic plan for the Our Lady of Light

Family of Parishes. Utilizing the six guiding principles from Beacons of Light (Church, Eucharist, Evangelization, Leadership, Love in Action, and Stewardship) as the foundation of our planning, parish leadership added the seventh planning area of Parish and School Collaboration, and our strategic plan was ready to begin.

Over the past 18 months the Our Lady of Light Family has successfully had over 300 different parishioners, staff, and school families participate in this process through individual interviews, serving on Steering Committee or the Planning Area teams, share ideas and feedback at the Convocation, and now through the Implementation teams that began meeting over summer 2024. We also had nearly 800 parishioners take the Ultimate Question Survey in April 2023 and over 940 take the Disciple Maker Index survey at the beginning of 2024.

After many months of planning and meetings, the Top Priorities (*listed to the right*) were developed that our parishioners, parish leadership, and ISPD felt were the first we needed to address as we moved forward as a family. Then after much prayer, discernment, planning meetings and consultation, we decided we would move forward with three Implementation Areas (Eucharist, Evangelization and Parish/School Collaboration) that would each focus on two specific priorities to address.

You will begin to receive monthly updates on the Strategic Development process in the bulletin. We also invite you to visit the Strategic Development page on our website to find regularly updated information. There, you will also find the Strategic Planning prayer we have written for the Our Lady of Light Family. Please pray this prayer with your individual families, ministries, in personal prayer, or any other time you feel is appropriate to help the Our Lady of Light to allow the Holy Spirit to guide us through this entire process.

www.olldayton.org/strategic-development

God Bless,
Mike Hoendorf, Development Director

Top Priorities: Strategic Growth Plan

Eucharist (Chaired by Stacy Stang)

- How can we create a Eucharistic environment and community that is reverent, holy, and informed, while providing more opportunities for experiencing the love of God in the Eucharist?
- How can we increase children and family's education and involvement in the Mass?

Evangelization (Chaired by Christen Aquino)

- How can we help people improve their relationship with Jesus, and engage and inspire them to be missionary disciples?
- How do we create opportunities for the OLL Family to walk with our parishioners, in all stages and seasons of life, in responding to important life and faith challenges/issues?

Parish/School Collaboration (Chaired by Danny Dunn)

- How do we create collaboration between our Parish and School communities to foster a better understanding of the role they each play in the present and future of the OLL Family, while increasing the number and effectiveness of volunteers?
- How can we see all OLL youth living out their faith in the shared mission of the entire OLL family through their involvement in parish and school activities, growth in becoming the next generation of leaders, and representing the OLL family in the greater community?

Church

- How can we get a greater percentage of people of all ages intentionally involved and participating?
- How can we encourage parishioners from both campuses to get to know each other and build a greater sense of community?

Leadership

- How can we increase the number and effectiveness of volunteers?
- How can we create opportunities for priests, deacons, and staff to balance mind, body, and soul?

Love in Action

- How can we educate our family of parishes about the true meaning of Catholic social teaching?

Stewardship

- How can we educate our parishioners on Stewardship and help them actively claim their roles as volunteers while inviting others to share their gifts as well?
- How do we encourage a better understanding and more open discernment of all vocations?

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A key part of the success of the Strategic Development Planning Process up to this point begins with its leadership and the ripple effect this leadership has created.

The first ripple in the OLL Strategic Development Pond is the Executive Leadership Team which has consisted of Fr. Brian Phelps, Deacon Chris Rauch, Christen Aquino, Leah Coghlan, Danny Dunn, Mike Hoendorf, Vicki Hume, and Stacy Stang.

The next key ripple was the Planning Phase Steering Committee which consisted of Lisa Barhorst (Parishioner), **Erin Brandon (Parishioner)**, Sarah Chivers (Staff), **Allan Crasto (Parishioner)**, Amy Doorley (Parishioner), **Howard Emsley (Parishioner)**, Brian Kohr (Parishioner), **Michelle Nehrbass (Staff)**, Ruth Reeve (Parishioner), **Cheri Rotterman (Parishioner)**, Sarah Seckt (Staff), **Janel Skerl (Parishioner)**, Mike Sobocki (Parishioner), **Danny Sprouse (Parishioner)**, John Tesar (Parishioner), **Josh Tovey (Parishioner)**, and Bill Uhl (Parishioner).

The Executive Team continues to guide the OLL Family through this process, and some have moved into more hands on leadership roles during Implementation. The Steering Committee helped lead us through the entire Planning Phase and helped us prepare to move into the Implementation Phase. They met monthly from July through November 2023 and gathered a couple times in early 2024 to help us decide what areas we would focus on first with Implementation. Some have stayed on to help with the Implementation Phase.

From many discussions came the plan to focus on School and Parish Collaboration, Eucharist, and Evangelization areas. Each of these Implementation teams has met for the past two months and are beginning to determine what strategic solutions they will focus on in the coming months and beyond. As these strategic solutions are determined we will share them with you.

Please visit the Strategic Development page for regularly updated information, and we ask you to keep this entire process in your prayers by praying the Strategic Development Prayer on the right side of this page.

www.olldayton.org/strategic-development

God Bless,
Mike Hoendorf, Development Director

Strategic Development Prayer

Come Holy Spirit, bless the hearts of your faithful. Give us the strength to trust in the guiding light of Our Lady. May we never be discouraged on our journey to serve your Son. We ask for your blessing and intercession on our volunteers here with us today and everyday that they work to serve during this Implementation Phase of the Strategic Planning Process at Our Lady of Light Parish. Bless our decisions and be with us as we work toward a future in our parish family that radiates Christ. Give us the fortitude to walk with others on their road to Jesus and the prudence to discern the path that will make Heaven present here and now.

May our efforts bear fruit now and for eternity in your Church. May we never be discouraged in our journey, knowing that the desire to please you does in fact please you. We ask this, and for the intercession of all the great saints of Heaven, as we look to bring Our Lady of Light Family into the next era of love of the Eucharist, Evangelization through Missionary Discipleship, and collaboration between our parishes and our school. Lord Jesus, we love you, we trust you, and we always desire to serve you.

Amen.

Please pray this prayer with your individual families, ministries, in personal prayer, or any other time you feel is appropriate to help the Our Lady of Light Family to allow the Holy Spirit to guide us through this entire process.

